REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 4 are amended in an editorial manner, while claims 7-9 are newly presented.

Specification Support

As mentioned in the Introductory Comments, above, the patent office has already given a positive indication regarding support for these claims. Please see Final Office Action (2/24/06) and Office Action (2/7/05), each from target patent application no. 10/087,314, where the published version of our application (10/723/731) is used as a primary reference against the Zeller application.

We also provide the following by way of example specification and written description support. Of course, this is not an exhaustive listing as there are other areas of the specification that also provide support. Thus, the following tables are not meant to limit the scope of the claims as many other examples and implementations will fall within their scope.

Table 1: Claim 1

1. A method for embedding information in an image so that the image will have different information when the image is reproduced by a scanning or printing process, the method comprising	See, e.g., page 2, lines 19-28; see also, e.g., page 4, lines 4-12.
embedding digital information in an image;	See, e.g., Fig. 1, element 10; see also, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12 and page 7, lines 5-9; and see, e.g., page 13, lines 10-17.
printing the embedded digital information and the image to produce an original printed image;	See, e.g., Fig. 1 elements 10; see also, e.g., page 7, lines 5-9 (original document 10 has a watermark power ratio 1:1); see also, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12 and page 7, lines 11-15.

scanning the original printed image to obtain a digital image of the embedded information and the image;	See, e.g., Fig. 1, element 12; see also, e.g., page 7, lines 11-15 (where the printed image containing the watermarks is copied, e.g., scanned).
determining the signal strength of the original image; and	See, e.g., Fig. 1, element 10 (power ratio 1:1); see also, e.g., page 7, line 5.
comparing the signal strength of a printed image with the signal strength of the original printed image to determine whether or not the printed image is a copy of the original printed image.	See, e.g., Fig. 1, element 10b (power ratio of the scanned and reprinted original document is now 1:10); see also, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12 (where energy levels are used to determine if a watermarked image is an original printed image or a copy of the original printed image).

Table 2: Claim 2

2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the image is a graphic	The specification has repeated discussion of "images". A quick Google search ("define graphic") revealed many definitions including: "an image that is generated by a computer," "computer data in the form of a picture or image," and "(or image) In computers, and on the Internet, a picture is generally referred to as a 'graphic' or an 'image'." We invite the Examiner to repeat our Google search.

Table 3: Claim 3

3. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein a bit map file is created for the original printed image.	See, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12

Table 4: Claim 4

4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the comparing step further comprises: measuring the signal strength of the original printed image to set a threshold value for the original printed image and copies of the original printed image.	See, e.g., Fig. 1, elements 10 and 10b; see also the table spanning pages 12 and 13; see also, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12, see also page 7, lines 5-15.

Table 5: Claim 5

5. The method claimed in claim 4, whereby if the signal strength of a printed image is greater than the threshold value the printed image is the original printed image.	See, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12; see also, e.g., the table spanning pages 12 and 13; see also, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12, see also page 7, lines 5-15.

Table 6: Claim 6

6. The method claimed in claim 4, whereby if the signal strength of a printed image is less than the threshold value the printed image is not the original printed image.	See, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12; see also, e.g., the table spanning pages 12 and 13; see also, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12, see also page 7, lines 5-15.

Table 7: Claim 7

7. A method to determine whether an image or video has been reproduced, the method comprising:	See, e.g., page 2, lines 19-28; see also, e.g., page 4, lines 4-12.
receiving an image or video, wherein the image or video includes information steganographically hidden therein;	See, e.g., page 3, lines 1-12; see also, e.g., page 4, lines 4-12 and see, e.g., page 2, lines 19-28; see also, e.g., page 13, lines 10-17.
detecting signal characteristics	See, e.g., Fig. 1, elements 10 and 10b; see

associated with the steganographically hidden information from the image or video;	also, e.g., page 7, lines 5-9 and 11-15.
determining whether detected signal characteristics correspond to predetermined signal characteristics in an expected manner,	See, e.g., Fig. 1, elements 10 and 10b; see also, e.g., page 7, lines 5-9 and 11-15; see, e.g., page 8, lines 14-21.
wherein a reproduction is determined when the detected characteristics do not correspond to the predetermined characteristics in the expected manner.	See, e.g., Fig. 1, elements 10 and 10b; see also, e.g., page 7, lines 5-9 and 11-15; see, e.g., page 8, lines 14-21.

Table 8: Claim 8

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the information steganographic hidden in the image or video comprises two or more steganographic watermarks.	See, e.g., page 13, lines 10-14. See Fig. 1, element 10.

Table 9: Claim 9

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the predetermined characteristics correspond to a signal relationship between the two or more steganographic watermarks.	See, e.g., Fig. 1, elements 10 and 10b; see also page 4, lines 4-12; see also, e.g., page 7, lines 5-15.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement and Form 1449 are provided herewith. Consideration of the information listed therein is respectfully requested.

Priority Claim

There appears to be a potential gap in one branch of our priority chain, the chain stretching back to 1995. Thus, it appears that our priority claim may only be effective to January 1998. (We mention this so that the Examiner can better evaluate the prior art.)

Conclusion

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Nevertheless, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 503-469-4685 if any issue arises.

Date: March 16, 2006   Respectfully submitted,

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